GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:215
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000
PREVENTION OF MATERNITY DEATHS
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the death rate of the pregnant women and the death rate of children at the time of delivery in the country during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent maternity deaths and child mortality in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)&(b): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 215 FOR REPLY ON 7.8.2000

Data on the death rate of Pregnant Woman and the death rate of children specific to the time of delivery are not computed/available. Registrar General of India makes available data with regard to maternal mortality rates and perinatal mortality rates which are detailed below;

Maternal Mortality Rate

This is defined as the number of maternal deaths on account of pregnancy, childbirth or within 42 days of childbirth per 100,000 live births.

Estimates of maternal mortality rate are available only from the National Family Health Survey carried out in 1992-93 and from the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India for the year 1997. These are indicated below:

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National family Health survey (1992-93) :   437 per 100,000 live births
Sample Registration System (RGI-1997) :   408 per 100,000 live births
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

This is defined as the number of still births (born dead) and infant deaths of less than seven days for every 1000 live births plus still births during the year.

The estimates for Perinatal Mortality Rate are available from the SRS of Registrar General of India for the years 1995 and 1996. These are:

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1995   45
1996   44
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Maternal Health and Child Health are an integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme and aims at bringing down the maternal, infant and child mortality and morbidity. Under this programme which was launched in 1997 for five years various interventions are being implemented. These are :

For Mothers:

1. Essential obstetric care.

2. Emergency obstetric care.

3. Provision of contractual or part-time appointment of Anesthetists, Gynecologists, Safe Motherhood consultants and technical staff like Laboratory Technician, Public Health Nurses, etc.

4. Provision of drugs and equipment for Maternal Health at sub-centers, primary health centers, community health centers/ first referral units.

5. A scheme for 24 hour delivery services at selected primary health centers and community health centers,
6. Additional ANMs for backward districts.

7 Referral transport for pregnant women. This was initially implemented in eight backward States and is now being extended to all States.

8. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.

9. Prevention, management and control of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI)/ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).
10. Intensification of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programme for Maternal and Child Health through the mass media as also decentralized local specific activities at the grassroots level.
11. Involvement of NGOs in awareness generation and service delivery where government services are not adequate.
12. Training of medical/paramedical and other services providers.
13. Training of Dais.

For Children

1. Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases.

2. Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases.

3. Control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections.

4. Eradication of polio.

5. Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.
6. New born care.

Special programme for strengthening the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health Programme have been launched in 46 districts of 16 States with the help of UNICEF.In addition funds are being provided to 50 districts for improving the delivery of Maternal and Child Health services during outreach sessions at the sub-center and village level.

The need for bringing down Maternal, Perinatal and Infant Mortality Rate considerably and improving maternal and child health in general has been strongly stressed in the National Population Policy which has recently been approved by the Government.This Policy recommends a holistic strategy for bringing about total inter-sectoral coordination at the grassroot level and also for involving the NGOs, the civil society, the Panchayati Raj Institutions and women`s groups etc..